

GENERAL BELL SAYS WE STAND GOOD CHANCE THE WESTERN LIBERAL

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FIFTY THOUSAND ACRES OF LAND IN ANIMAS VALLEY UNDER OPTION

THE McGEE COMPANY, OF ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA, TO PROSPECT FOR OIL AND MINERALS THERE

Steins, N. M., July 26.—The A. T. McGee Company, Geologists and mining experts from Ardmore, Oklahoma, have taken an option on fifty thousand acres of land in the Animas valley, and are preparing to prospect for oil. They will also take option on a large tract of claims which are said to be rich in lead and zinc.

The company is composed of two brothers, and they have both been in the Animas valley for several days looking over the country.

They have given out as their opinion that the valley contains large deposits of zinc, lead, copper and salt, and that it is a gas and oil country. Their willingness to take an option with several thousand dollars as a forfeit attests the real value they set on their own opinion. If there is oil in the district, the country is in the way of a big future. It is said that the company has other big interests back of them in the event of the property turning out as they believe.

LETTER FROM GENERAL BELL AT EL PASO

The Lordsburg boosters who have been in correspondence with military headquarters at El Paso, have had great success thus far in their efforts. Mr. Leahy, president of the Roberts & Leahy Mercantile Company, is in receipt of a friendly letter from General George Bell, who is in charge of this military district, in which the general warmly compliments the citizens of Lordsburg for their interest and offer of a camp site, and gives much encouragement to the coming of a part of the National Guard to this town. General Bell will take up the matter with the war department at Washington and lay the matter before the authorities there. Altho it is not possible for several weeks yet, or until a course of systematic training is gone thru with, it will probably be within the next few months that such a step will be taken. Brig. General Bell states that the men are being concentrated at the present time for training, and will not be put in separate camps until fit for border duty. High hopes are raised here for

the ultimate coming of between five and fifteen thousand guardsmen, and every citizen with loyal blood in his veins is jubilant over the outcome of the efforts of a committee from our representative citizens. A great deal more news is looked for by next week and the Western Liberal will follow the matter closely.

GEO. HAYDON SELLS

George Haydon concluded a deal with Trent & Rhodes this week whereby the latter firm comes into possession of the former's ranch three and one half miles south of town. The purchase price of \$4,000.00 includes 115 head of horses and other personal property. The entire amount was paid in cash.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING STARTED

Jack Heather, the local contractor who has the contract for the new high school building for Lordsburg, started on the construction work last Monday morning. It is to be a handsome edifice, and is to cost completed about \$14,000. It will be two stories and built of brick.

WM. E. BARNES DIED IN FRISCO

Complication of Diseases Causes Death of one of the Southwest's Best Known Men

FIFTEEN YEARS WITH S. P.

Los Angeles, Calif., July 26.—One of Lordsburg's and the southwest's most faithful servants and advocates is dead. The writer has just learned of the sad news which carries with it the loss of a friend true and loyal. William E. Barnes, for many years traveling freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, died a week ago Sunday at the S. P. Hospital in San Francisco.

His loss is a severe one to the colossal industry he represented, and to the people of the southwest, who knew him as a champion of their cause for progress and advancement. Just a short time ago he was a caller at the Western Liberal office seeking data to be incorporated in railroad literature to be published and circulated throughout the United States. At all times he worked for the interest of every community in the southwest making friends for his railroad that can be numbered by the thousands.

William E. Barnes, traveling freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific Company, Tucson division, died Sunday evening of a complication of diseases at the S. P. general hospital in San Francisco. The news was a complete surprise to Mr. Barnes' friends in Lordsburg, as it was only about three weeks ago that the Liberal was in receipt of a very cheerful letter from the popular railroad man, and we were encouraged to believe that he was improving.

The body arrived in Tucson on Wednesday and the funeral was held in that city yesterday.

Mr. Barnes was a very exceptional man and was perfectly fitted for the work in which he was engaged in latter years. The prevailing opinion that a diplomat is a term peculiar to governmental and international affairs has been the cause of more misunderstandings and ruptures resulting in loss of life and property than the average man has any idea of. Mr. Barnes was a railroad diplomat, and his peculiar talent in meeting all classes of men in all walks of life can never be estimated in the results obtained. His personality was probably one of the greatest assets possessed by the company, although it could not be gauged and reduced to the terms of a balance sheet. His passing is greatly regretted by the railroad men and citizens of Lordsburg, who will always remember him as a kind and sympathetic friend and a faithful and successful servant of the great corporation for which he has labored for the past fifteen years.

BURIED AT ARLINGTON

Capt. W. B. Brian, Troop M, 12th U. S. Cavalry, who shot himself at Cienegas last week, has been buried at the national cemetery at Arlington, Washington. He was 53 years of age, and became mentally unbalanced while on duty with his troop at the border town below Hachita.

J. S. VAUGHT OF DEMING

J. S. Vaught, the present assistant district attorney of the Sixth Judicial District of New Mexico is out for the main toga. This week's Liberal carries his announcement as a candidate subject to the Democratic convention.

Mr. Vaught is a member of the firm of Vaught & Watson, prominent attorneys of Luna County, and in his present office as assistant to the District Attorney is rapidly making good. He has been four years in Deming, coming there from Mississippi. He has held his present office since the first of February. During the time he has had nine first degree murder cases, and has secured convictions on all of them. He prosecuted the Villistas who were recently hung in Deming.

"I am making this campaign on my record and on my own popularity," said attorney Vaught. "I have some ancestors, but I do not wish to inflict them upon the voters of this district as a means of getting an office. If I do not deserve the place on my own account, I'd rather not have it."

GRANT COUNTY LEADS IN WEALTH

Valuation of Property as Fixed by Assessor Shipley is \$24,419,819.20

Grant county again this year takes first place among the 26 counties of New Mexico in assessed wealth. According to the final figures of the county tax roll compiled by Assessor James A. Shipley and his deputy, Robert Jones, Grant county's final assessed valuation for 1916 is \$24,419,819.20. Last year the total assessment was \$23,240,295.00. The increase this year is therefore \$1,179,524.20.

The only county that anywhere near challenges Grant in assessed valuation is Chaves, which this year has an assessed valuation of \$22,785,095, or \$1,634,724.20 less than the total valuation of Grant county property.

The state tax commission at its session in November, 1915, adopted a resolution expecting and requiring Grant county to show a net valuation of property for 1916 of \$15,960,000.00, exclusive of the value of the property of railroad, telegraph, telephone, express, sleeping car and transportation companies, banking stock and also exclusive of the net output of mines, all of which totaled \$7,762,879.20. The assessor returned a net increase over the amount expected and required by the state tax commission of \$966,940, or approximately \$1,000,000.

MRS. ALSOP PASSES AWAY

Mrs. H. P. Alsop passed away at her home in Thompson Canon, 21 miles northeast of town last Monday night. She leaves a husband and two sons. She was about seventy-five years of age, and passed peacefully out of this world. The funeral took place Tuesday.

LORDSBURG GIRL HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Los Angeles, Calif., July 27.—While bathing in the plunge at Venice a short time ago, Miss Thelma Marshall of Lordsburg, N. M., who is spending the summer on the coast with her mother, slipped and fell on the glazed surface of the plunge, fainting at the same time. Miss Marshall sank for the third time, but was rescued by the life guards, and after applying first aid methods, she was soon revived. On account of having fainted, no water entered the young lady's lungs, and she suffered no ill effects of the narrow escape.

VALUABLE DEED FROM U. S.

Perry W. Turner has proved up on his half section ranch, known as "Paradise Farm," at Myndus under the act of Congress of April 14, 1820, 96 years ago, which was the first public land law enacted by the United States. The granting of this deed from the government to Mr. Turner is the first of its kind so far granted in this region, so far as is known, and establishes beyond question that straight titles can be given to real developers. It proves that the government titles issued to homesteaders are as solid as the Rocky Mountains with which this region is blessed.

CAPTURED NEAR HACHITA

Frank McLean, alias Frank Wade, wanted in Wyoming on a charge of horse stealing, was arrested the past week by Sheriff W. C. Simpson in the vicinity of Hachita, where he was working on a ranch. He was taken to Columbus, and later to Deming, where he was turned over to an agent of the Cattle Raisers' Association of Wyoming. McLean was immediately taken north where he will stand trial for the charge.

ROBERT BOWLEWARE IS OUT FOR ASSESSOR

Last week's Western Liberal carried the announcement of "good natured Bob" as a candidate for county assessor. He is one of the best known men in the county, and is everywhere respected and liked. He is the proprietor of "The Old Man" Corral in Silver City, and is interested in several other enterprises in the state, one of which is mining. Bob's merry laugh has rung from one end of the county to the other, and in the legislative halls at Santa Fe as well, for he served a term as state representative for the county and counts his friends over the state by legions. He ought to make a strong candidate, and is almost sure of the nomination, for up to the present time no one is out against him.

STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MURDER OF WILL PARKER AND WIFE

BELIEF GROWING THAT WOMAN AND NOT MEXICAN HUSBAND DID THE FOUL DEED

At the trial in the Justice Court before Justice of the Peace C. W. Marsalis developments started to unfold which have since given rise to much talk and more hard thinking on the part of interested members of the families left to mourn the murder of Will Parker and his young bride, Alice Krebaum-Parker. More interest has been aroused than at any time since the deed was committed, and it is possible that a solution will be arrived at with much more ease in the September term of court than it has been supposed possible.

It will be recalled that Mrs. Andrea Valenzuela was arrested three weeks ago as a suspect by deputies of the Sheriff's office, and sent to the county jail at Silver City pending a hearing in Justice Court. At the time, Mr. Krebaum, father of the murdered girl, insisted that she was an important character in the affair, but the idea was not given much favor other than that she could tell a great deal, perhaps, of what happened there. The idea was prevalent at first that the deed was committed by an outlaw band of Villistas or other bandits from old Mexico who had crossed over the border on one of their usual raids. But at the time of the capture of the woman, the belief was growing into a certainty that such was not the case. Admissions or her part substantiated the theory but even then, it was thought that she was only an unwilling accomplice.

Mrs. Valenzuela was brought from the county jail by auto last Monday, and the hearing began about one o'clock. Then is the time that people began to open their eyes. The woman proved to

be one of the hardest witnesses ever examined here. She showed not a trace of emotion, and from time to time poured herself a glass of water from the pitcher on the Justice's desk and without a tremor carried it to her lips. Long before the hearing was concluded, it was evident to everyone in the room that instead of an ignorant person to deal with, there was a very bright one indeed. She proved herself wily and equal to sudden emergencies in the rain of pointed questions hurled at her by District Attorney Vaught. It is evident that she knows not only some things, but all about the crime, and while pretending ignorance, she at the same time made admissions which implicate her far more than was seen at the time.

Among other things developed at the trial was that her maiden name was Josephena Pacheco, and she is a sister of the notorious Pachecos who are implicated in the Villa raid on Columbus. They are charged with being informers to Villa and his officers, and it was thru them and their like that the partial success of the raid was made possible. The Pachecos are noted all along the border as being an evil and underhanded family.

Belief is growing here that she herself and not the man was the actual murderer. Especially since the hearing has this belief gained ground on account of the new developments and findings of the relatives of the murdered couple. The woman was bound over to the grand jury, and without a dowry of bail. She will be watched closely, and any escape, which it is feared will be tried, will be nipped in the bud.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

Miss Aurelia, the nine year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Sellards caught her hand in a washing machine a few days ago and it is feared that the thumb will have to be amputated. This happened up north, where Mr. Sellards and her children are visiting near Des Moines, Iowa, at her old home.

Albuquerque, N. M., July 27.—The arrival of Phil H. LeNoir in Albuquerque to take charge as secretary of the state fair commission was the event of chief interest in connection with the fair last week. Mr. LeNoir succeeds the late R. W. Wiley for that position, and will take up the campaign for a successful fair where Mr. Wiley left off.

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